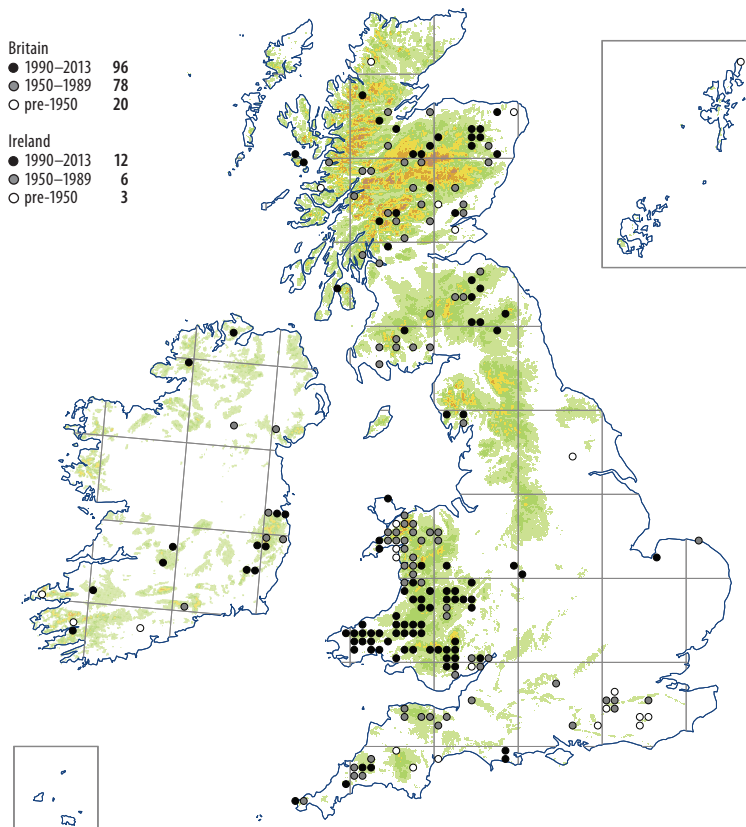


Diplophyllum obtusifolium



A calcifuge pioneer of disturbed, usually iron-stained soil in old quarries and gravel pits and on streamsides and by roads. In forestry plantations it is often found by unmetalled roads and tracks, where it grows on damp crumbling banks, gravelly slopes and ditch sides, mixed with other small colonists such as *Diplophyllum albicans*, *Nardia scalaris*, *Scapania scandica*, *Solenostoma gracillimum*, *Ceratodon purpureus*, *Ditrichum heteromallum* and *Pogonatum urnigerum*. Populations on forestry banks persist for a short time before being lost to a dense carpet of *D. albicans*, but readily colonise newly slumped soil. Altitudinal range: 20–535 m.

Diplophyllum obtusifolium has clearly extended its range in Scotland and Wales in response to the increase in commercial forestry and proliferation of forestry roads in

recent years. Its apparent absence from most of northern England is surprising, especially as it is widespread on acid soils in the Netherlands.

Paroicous; perianths and sporophytes are frequent; gemmae are rare.

Circumpolar Boreo-temperate, bipolar. Throughout Europe but rare in extreme south and north. Siberia, Russian Far East, Korea, Japan, Taiwan; western N America, Greenland, Vermont; south-eastern Australia, New Zealand; Argentina, Chile, Falkland Islands.

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